Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor

2511. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India plans to join the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor Project; and

(b) if so, the nature of our participation including the financial implications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present India is not a part of ITER project. However, Government of India has recently decided to participate in the ITER project as a full partner. Letters expressing our interest have been sent to all ITER partners. The financial implication on our part is presently estimated at Rs. 2500 crore over a period of ten years which will be in the form of in kind contribution such as equipment and services of personnel.

Augmentation of harnessing atomic energy

2512. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether electric power derived from atomic power stations, besides Hydel Power, provides cost effective and quality source of electricity as compared to thermal power;

(b) whether industrialized countries *viz.*, the USA, UK and other in EU and some in the pacific region are harnessing Atomic Energy to meet their power demands more than on thermal power;

(c) the present status of India in this regard vis-a-vis these countries;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating augmentation of harnessing Atomic Energy;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, principle constraints therefor; and

(g) the details of steps contemplated to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Share of nuclear power in the total power production in the world is about 16%. It is 78% in France, 20% in USA and 19% in UK.

(c) India's share of nuclear power generation is about 3%.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) At present 14 reactors with an installed capacity of 2770 MWe are in operation. Fifteenth reactor-Unit 4 with 540 MWe of Tarapur Atomic Power Project has been synchronized to the grid on 4.6.04 and is expected to commence commercial operation in August 2005. Apart from this, 8 more reactors are under various stages of construction. On completion of these Projects, the capacity will be augmented to 7280 MWe by 2011.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.

Funds allocated for Atomic Power Plants

†2513. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up Atomic Power Plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be allocated by Government for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Work on setting up of nine nuclear power reactors is going on in full swing.

(b) The details are:

Sl. No.	State	No. of reactors	Capacity in MWe
1.	Maharashtra	2	1080*
2.	Rajasthan	2	440
3.	Karnataka	2	440
4.	Tamil Nadu	3	2500

*TAPP Unit-4 (540 MWe) in Maharashtra has been connected to grid on 4.6.2005 and expected to commence commercial operation in August, 2005.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.